



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-95-183
Thursday
21 September 1995

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Zaire

Gunmen Attack Interior Minister in Kinshasa

AB2009153795 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French*
1215 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Bandundu Province stated that reprisal operations are being conducted by security forces in various villages. In Kinshasa, insecurity also prevails: Gustave Malumba Mbangula, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, was attacked last night in the suburbs of the city. Here with the details is Kamanda wa Kamanda Muzembe:

[Begin Kamanda recording] Gustave Malumba Mbangula was visiting some relatives in Matongue, and as he was bidding farewell to his hosts, someone fired a gun at him. Suddenly, five men with machine guns appeared — they must have been there on someone's anonymous order. The deputy prime minister and interior minister said that he immediately grabbed one of the assailants and used him as a shield. He then returned to the interior of the compound he had been about to leave. The attacker who had been grabbed suddenly succeeded in escaping, and in the shooting that ensued a young girl was slightly wounded in the collarbone. In the ensuing confusion, the gunmen stole the minister's official car. The minister stated that the attackers had dropped two bags containing useful documents — he then refused further comment until the investigation was completed.

Is this a message? Perhaps. This is the second attack against a member of the Kengo wa Dondo government. About a month ago, Culture and Arts Minister Faustin Lukonzola was attacked, his bodyguard was killed, and his car stolen. The attack against the interior minister happened at a time when alarming reports are coming from the Bandundu Region. According to travelers who talked to the Zaire Consumers Union in Kinshasa, the village of N'sai, located in the Gulu Region, has been raided by security forces carrying out reprisals against the inhabitants of this small village for having murdered gendarmes. The same source said that these same security forces had also raided neighboring villages while looking for people from N'sai, and added that more than 10 civilians had been killed.

In a telephone message to the headquarters of the security forces, the Bandundu authorities did not mention the death of the civilians, but they did report that a sergeant major had been killed and a gendarme seriously wounded by the local people, and that five villages had been set ablaze. According to the acting governor of the region, village youths were opposed to the arrest of a bandit accused of two murders. The man was a former soldier who had escaped from Kinshasa Makada prison. [end recording]

Official Threatens To Arrest Rwandan 'Extremist' Hutus

AB2109105895 *Paris AFP in English*
0736 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Goma, 21 Sep (AFP) — A high-ranking official in eastern Zaire has warned that measures will be taken against extremist Hutus in the Goma refugee camps who are preventing Rwandan refugees from returning home. Athanas Kahamo, deputy governor of the North Kivu region where Goma is located, told refugees at the Katala camp Wednesday [20 September] that military officials had been instructed to "arrest the criminals who are holding the refugees hostage and preventing them from returning to Rwanda."

"We are determined to break all resistance and to prevent any attempts to keep the refugees in Goma," he told the meeting which was organized as part of a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) campaign for the voluntary repatriation of some 700,000 Rwandan Hutus in the Goma region.

A UNHCR representative in Goma, Joel Boutrou, told AFP that the refugees were still "tentative" about returning, but "we haven't given up hope." About 9,000 refugees have returned home via the Gisenyi border point in northwest Rwanda since the beginning of the week, according to the UNHCR. Hundreds of thousands of Hutus fled to Zaire after the victory of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) in last year's civil war.

Somalia**Aidid Appoints Committee To Enforce Security**

EA2009140595 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Masses of the Somali Republic in Somali 1700 GMT 19 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohamed Farah Aidid, president of the Republic of Somalia, issued a circular on 14 September concerning a committee he has appointed to study the legal enforcement of general security in the country. The committee is made up of five members. They are:

1. Mr. Aidid Abdullei Ilkahanaf, minister for constitution and federal affairs — chairman.
2. Industry Minister Prof. Mohamoud Ali Dahir Gure — vice chairman.
3. Culture Minister Abdullei Ahmed Hashi — member.
4. Mr. Abdullei Dahir Barre, deputy minister for energy and electricity — member.
5. Mr. Abdullei Osoble Barre, attorney general of the nation — member.

The naming of the members of this committee came as a result of the president's observation that a law is needed on the general security of the country, which should be implemented quickly. The president expressed the hope that the committee will complete the job as soon as possible, and will give him the results.

SDM-SNA Accuses 'Self-Styled Group' of Attack

EA2009195595 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of Somali Pacification in Somali 1630 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the SDM-SNA [Somali Democratic Movement-Somali National Alliance] has said that the self-styled group which recently launched a provocative attack on Bay Region has killed innocent people and burned commercial markets there. The spokesman said the self-styled group trespassed on the regional autonomous administration of Digil and Mirifleh, which had been established by them in response to the popular wish of the local residents. The spokesman stated that the aim of the attack was to loot the people of the region and the relief organizations engaging in humanitarian work in the area.

The spokesman stressed that the self-styled group had provocatively attacked a peaceful area, thereby violating the laws of regional autonomy and peaceful coexistence. The spokesman called on the Digil and Mirifleh to counter the self-styled group's aggression, and to defend their dignity and honor. He called on the Somali people, particularly the country's political organizations working hard for peace, and on the world's peace-loving peoples, to do something about the self-styled group's

aggression against the Digil and Mirifleh. In conclusion, he called on relief organizations in the country to send humanitarian aid to the displaced people from Bay Region, some of whom are now in Mogadishu and Uanleuen.

Aidid Forces Free Seven Foreign Aid Workers

AB2009222295 Paris AFP in English 2110 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, 20 sept (AFP) — Somali militiamen loyal to warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid on Wednesday freed seven women, part of a group of 21 foreign aid workers held since Sunday in the inland town of Baidoa.

The women arrived in Nairobi aboard a small UN aircraft. The party was made up of three Americans, two Australians, an Italian and a Dutchwoman.

In Baidoa, 14 men of several different nationalities are still being held in the offices of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"They are all in good health, we are anxious to see them back home, too," Angela Commasso of Italy, one of the freed women, told AFP.

She said they had all been well-treated. "We played cards, we drank coffee," she said, adding however that she had no idea why they were held.

She said they had been told they were being "protected," the reason given by Aidid's entourage after the town fell to his men on Sunday morning. "That is all I can say," she said. Most of the freed women refused to talk to reporters.

Also on board the UN plane was a representative of the UN Development Programme, part of an international team trying to secure the release of all the foreigners being held.

Three planes were sent to Mandera, on the frontier between Somalia and Kenya, Wednesday to evacuate foreigners. Only one of them made the trip to Baidoa since the men detained there were not released.

Sigurd Illing, head of the Somalia Aid Coordination Board, said that negotiators had not succeeded in seeing Aidid but had spoken to his subordinates.

"The fact that the seven women in the group have been freed is very encouraging and I believe the decision in principle to let the men go too has been taken," he said.

"I do not think Aidid can afford to have disastrous relations with the whole international community," he said.

Foreign Minister Affirms Plans To Keep Post

*MB2009180595 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1701 GMT 20 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria Sept 20 SAPA — Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo on Wednesday [20 September] rejected reports that he might be removed from his post. "There is no indication from anybody that I am going to be removed," he said. "I am planning to remain Minister of Foreign Affairs, hopefully until my term expires."

Nzo was briefing reporters on his recent visit to Israel and the autonomous Palestinian territories, as well as upcoming trips to Tanzania, Uganda, the United Nations, Brazil, Cuba and Mexico.

Nzo said his Middle East trip had been "very successful". Agreements had been signed with both Israel and the Palestinian territories to promote relations. The Department of Foreign Affairs was trying to arrange a visit by President Nelson Mandela to both countries as soon as possible.

Nzo said his visit to Tanzania, from Thursday, would coincide with the inauguration of Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe as South African High Commissioner.

Asked about reported human rights violations by Nigeria's military government, Nzo said South Africa's role to resolve the situation was one of quiet diplomacy. "We are not going to intervene by sending an army there." Nigeria's military rulers had in any event promised to announce steps in October to restore democracy, Nzo said.

ANC Issues 'Self-Criticism' of Role in Parliament

*MB2109112295 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1037 GMT 21 Sep 95*

[Statement issued by ANC Chief Whip M.A. Stile on 21 September; place not given — issued on the SAPA PR Wire Service]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The ANC'S 1 1/2 Years in Parliament a Brief Self-Criticism

May 1994 was a historic month for South Africa [SA] in general and the African National Congress in particular. This was no less so for those ANC members who found themselves sworn in by the New Parliament (National Assembly and Senate). Whilst the rest of SA was revelling in the newly-delivered democracy, the MP's were anxiously trying to settle in to the mammoth task of making laws that should translate the aspirations of the oppressed to reality. The seeds of democracy planted

by the Electorate had to be nurtured by legislation that would make it possible for the Government to transform SA.

Set Backs:

Most of us had no preparation whatsoever for our new task. We were, as it were, thrown into the ocean without a radar. Our only tools were the politics of the ANC and our resolve to have the lives of our people improved. The bureaucracy we were inheriting was in many ways unsuited for the new dispensation. The staff did not always know how to relate to us. We also were not always clear as to what relationship should exist between us and the staff. This is to say nothing about our inability to locate relevant offices when we needed their services. The services themselves were totally inadequate.

Perhaps even more serious was the psychological unpreparedness for the new situation. Most of us had come from exile, prison or some other form of the apartheid set up. All of a sudden we were confronted with having to run two or even three homes. There were no counselling services. All these exaggerated the unfriendliness of the Parliamentary set-up.

Gains:

Despite the above, we quickly settled to our work as best we could. We quickly learned how to work with Parties we had been at war with. Together with them we constituted what is called Parliament. The many Parliamentary Committees were resolved not to be rubber stamps for the Government. We also opened Committees to the press and had to consult many stakeholders in dealing with legislation. This was an elaborate process that consumed a lot of time. It was, however, necessary if we were to be true to our promise of transparency and participatory democracy.

The smaller Parties needed to be taken on board without being allowed to veto our programmes. This meant allocating to them debating time which otherwise belonged to us in terms of proportions. We had to negotiate some thing with the smaller Parties to avoid lengthy wrangles and conflicts. All this saw us sacrificing family time and attempting some marriages at risk. But all in all, this helped us build a working machinery. The staff also soon realised that we were not so bad after all.

But we cannot claim that all was smooth and rosy. Politicking among the Parties was not very helpful. In this process some Parties used some media people to portray a false image about Parliament and the ANC. This has intensified with the run-up to the Local

Government Elections. All stops are being pulled to portray the ANC as an inefficient and unreliable Party. This is not being helpful and affects negatively the legitimacy of Parliament. It also contributes to the temptations in some quarters to embark on campaigns designed to undermine the ANC-led Government. Of course we cannot allow that.

MP's had to face the added problem of unacceptably meagre support services. The available resources are negligible. MP's from other countries cannot believe what they see when they come to Cape Town. We also set up too many Committees in an effort to have a focussed approach to the transformation of government departments. This has overstretched MP's and sometimes resulted in clashes where an MP was expected to be at 2 meetings at the same time. Some Committees also sat parallel to plenary sessions. All this created quorum problems. Whips were kept running around to make sure that the process was not derailed. The situation was salvaged by grabbing the process by the scruff of its neck and pontificating which Committees will sit and when. That helped.

For Parliament to have work, enough Legislation should be produced by government departments. Unfortunately legislation is usually not available until towards the end of a session. This has to change. Departments must learn to conform to deadlines. Only this way will we be able to plan for the year rather than rely on ad hoc programmes. We have identified ways of correcting this situation.

Lastly, did we succeed in passing legislation that will change the South African Society? I believe we have. Such legislation as the: Restitution of Land Rights; Truth and Reconciliation; Defence Amendment; SA Police Service; National Education Policy; Development Facilitation Amendment and a number of Justice Bills to name a few, provide government with the authority and framework for the reconstruction and development of the South African society. The Youth Development Commission Bill has also been approved by Cabinet. To that extent we have been very successful.

To register this success we had to work very hard. Sometimes we had to use our numbers to prevent (resistors of change) from giving another year of life to Apartheid systems. We believe that our 62% vote in the elections should not be neutralised by a vulgarised form of democracy. Everybody agrees with us. But political expediency compels some to make confusing noises as they try to legitimise their position as viable oppositions to the ANC. We have not and shall not be tricked to abandon our programmes for the democratisation of our country.

Our first 1-1/2 years in Parliament have neither been chaotic nor dismal.

President Mandela Appoints Human Rights Commission

*MB2109111995 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1011 GMT 21 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria Sept 21 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela on Thursday appointed the Human Rights Commission with effect from October 1.

The full-time commissioners, to serve seven-year terms, are Dr Max Coleman, Christiaan Daniel de Jager, Rhoda Kadalie, Evangelina Shirley Mabusela, Rev Nyameko Barney Pityana, Anne Christine Routier and Faith Pansy Tlakula.

Brigalia Ntombemhlophe Bam, Prof Charles Robinson Mandlenkosi Dlamini, Prof Karthigasen Govender and Helen Suzman have been appointed part-time commissioners, also for seven-year terms.

The commissioners were selected by a special all-party parliamentary committee earlier this year.

Mandela Signs Law on Stricter Bail Measures

*MB2109102495 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0942 GMT 21 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria Sept 21 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela on Thursday signed into law the Criminal Procedure Second Amendment (Bail) Bill at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

He told reporters the amendments would make it more difficult for people charged with serious crimes to be released on bail. "The government is determined to root out crime and, if necessary, to introduce new and tougher measures to bring it under control. This law on bail is our next step in the war against crime."

Mandela appealed to the public to mobilise and work with the police to ensure criminals were apprehended and brought to justice. "The judicial system also needs your co-operation, so that the courts have before them all the available evidence."

The Bill made special provision for serious crimes like murder, armed robberies, car hijackings, rape, arms smuggling and the possession of automatic or semi-automatic weapons.

"We must take the war to the criminals and no longer allow a situation in which we are mere sitting ducks for those in our society who, for whatever reason, are bent on engaging in criminal and antisocial activities," Mandela said.

Mdlalose Threatens Legal Action Against Mandela

*MB2009190795 Johannesburg S Afr Radio Network
in English 1600 GMT 20 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KwaZulu/Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose has announced that his cabinet has approved a resolution recommending that legal proceedings be instituted in the Constitutional Court against President Nelson Mandela, the government, and the minister of provincial affairs and constitutional development, Mr. Roelf Meyer. Dr. Mdlalose has told a news conference in Pietermaritzburg that the move is to nullify certain amendments to the Constitution and the Local Government Transition Act.

Just over a week ago, the national Parliament passed certain amendments to the Constitution and the Local Government Transition Act. Dr. Mdlalose said four amendments to the Constitution had been considered unconstitutional by the province on the grounds that they interfered in provincial government functions.

32 Policemen Killed, 85 Wounded in 6 Months

*MB2009154195 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio
in English 1500 GMT 20 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South African Police have announced that 32 police officers were killed in more than 200 attacks on the police in Gauteng, excluding Pretoria, in the first six months of this year. In addition, 85 police officers were wounded and 46 police firearms stolen. More than 60 percent of the attacks were in or near predominantly black townships, and more than 57 percent of the victims were black officers.

IFP Council To Discuss Elections, Party

*MB2009115995 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
20 Sep 95 p 18*

[Report by Mondli Makhanya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] will decide at a crucial meeting of its ruling National Council at the end of this month whether to call for a snap general election in KwaZulu/Natal.

The meeting is a follow-up of the adjourned National Council meeting on Saturday, which resulted in the replacement of IFP moderate Arthur Konigkramer as provincial Constitutional Committee chairman.

The September 30 meeting is expected to bring to the fore simmering tensions between the party's provincial and national caucuses over the shape of the provincial constitution.

Party sources indicate that the month-end meeting could be very heated as it will pitch those who support the

IFP constitution against those prepared to hammer out a compromise with other parties. Should the IFP opt to push through its own constitution, it will put this constitution to the vote in the provincial legislature, a vote it is almost certain to lose.

The party will then propose a motion of no confidence in the provincial government, thus forcing its early dissolution.

However, IFP leaders deny that the September 30 meeting will be split between moderates and hardliners, a clear division between national and provincial caucuses.

This division has compelled Buthelezi to threaten to step down, saying he does not want to lead a divided party. While IFP national leaders — led by Correctional Services Minister Dr Sipo Mzimela — favour the hardline option of going for broke, the provincial leadership prefers a negotiated compromise.

Parties Align To Defeat ANC in Pietersburg

*MB2009112795 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1042 GMT 20 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pietersburg Sept 20 SAPA — Three political parties had joined forces to stop the African National Congress winning November's local government elections in Pietersburg, National Party [NP] provincial leader Andre Fourie said on Wednesday [20 September].

Fourie and Freedom Front [FF] deputy leader Johan Kriek said the NP would nominate candidates in four of the seven wards in Pietersburg. Three of the NP candidates would not be opposed by the Conservative Party nor the FF, he said. However, in Ward 12, candidates from the three parties would oppose each other as each felt they had an equal chance of winning.

"We cannot let Pietersburg be threatened by the...inexperience and lack of expertise the ANC has shown so far," Fourie said.

Traditional Leaders May Boycott Elections

*MB2009113595 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
20 Sep 95 p 8*

[Report by Joe Mdhlela]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Traditional Leaders country-wide are set to boycott local government elections on November 1, spokesman for the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party]-aligned House of Traditional Leaders Mr Musa Sibisi said yesterday.

His statement is a follow-up to a meeting held in Durban by the country's traditional leaders. Traditional

leaders represented included the ANC-aligned Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa [Contralesa], representatives of King Goodwill Zwelithini and other chiefs aligned to Contralesa.

To express how serious traditional leaders felt about that the Government not consulting them on issues affecting their constituencies, Sibisi said: "Traditional leaders as a collective will present a memorandum tabulating their plight to the Government." The leaders are hoping President Mandela will receive it on October 14.

Speaking for KwaZulu/Natal traditional leaders, Sibisi said there would be no elections in areas under the jurisdiction of the amakhosi [chiefs] until the Government begins to appreciate the role traditional leaders play within their communities.

At their meeting traditional leaders emphasised the need for unity despite political differences that may exist within their ranks. They argued that their position as traditional leaders was unique in the sense that "we have to operate within a system that was created by tradition over many years".

The leaders said while they accepted democratic principles, they were worried that the Government wanted to impose its will on the institution of traditional leadership.

The leaders also expressed concern that the Government had amended a constitution affecting the rights of traditional leaders and their communities without establishing a council of traditional leaders.

Although he did not attend the meeting, leader of Contralesa Chief Phathekile Holomisa said he shared the sentiments of the meeting.

"Our concern is to facilitate reconciliation and unity among all traditional leaders of our country under the banner of Contralesa. I know it is not easy — blood has been shed on both sides. But that does not mean we should not reconcile with each other," Holomisa said.

Holomisa confirmed that the onus was on the Government to take the institution of traditional leadership seriously, failing which he would support the meeting's call to boycott the elections.

Holomisa said Contralesa was due to have a national general meeting on September 29 to ratify decisions taken in Durban at the weekend. The meeting will take place at Mpumalanga.

"After this meeting we will make our [sentence as published]

South African Press Review for 21 Sep MB2109122295

[FBIS Editorial Report]

THE STAR

KwaZulu/Natal Works Projects — The Department of Public Works' threat to transfer control of the 36.3 million rands (R) it had allocated to KwaZulu/Natal for community projects would be "a sick joke," if not for the thousands of KwaZulu/Natal residents "who are trying to get the most basic human needs," says a page-16 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 21 September. The central government is seeking to transfer the funds because "not a single project has taken off" in KwaZulu/Natal. The editorial calls the transfer "a recipe for more conflict" and advises the Department of Public Works and the provincial government to "stop playing political games, resolve their differences and get the projects going."

BUSINESS DAY

Maize Prices — Farmers should be aware that the record-high maize prices are not going to last, begins a page-16 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 21 September. "Domestic maize prices now track those on foreign markets where, this year, drought has led to production shortfalls, falling stocks and rising prices. Next year it is not impossible that another drought in South Africa cuts our production while normal harvests in other producing countries have put a cap on world prices." The government will then have to resist calls for tariff protection or import restrictions to boost domestic prices, the editorial said. "Agriculture, and particularly maize farming, will gradually need to adjust to the new open economy South Africa is creating." Everyone should "accept the country is moving towards market deregulation and the price volatility that might engender."

Self-Protection Unit Salaries — "KwaZulu/Natal premier Frank Mdlalose's 'explanation' of how Inkatha self-protection unit members came to receive R5m from his government merely strengthens suspicions that taxpayers' money has been used to serve a party political agenda," begins a second editorial on the same page of BUSINESS DAY. In addition, Mdlalose's silence on issues, such as who authorized the disbursements and who the beneficiaries are, "is yet another sign that he does not call the shots in the province."

Mozambique, Zimbabwe To Review Military Accord

MB2109064595 Maputo TVM Television Network in Portuguese 1800 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mozambique and Zimbabwe will review the 1988 military accord that allowed Zimbabwean military forces to enter to this country during the war. Most of these forces were deployed along the Beira Corridor.

Mozambican Defense Minister Aguiar Mazula and Moven Mahachi, his Zimbabwean counterpart, met for the first time since the new Mozambican Government was sworn in. The talks focused on an assessment of past cooperation and plans for future cooperation. [passage omitted]

Mozambique Television also learned that the issue of troop training was given a lot of attention during the meeting. At least 600 Mozambique Defense Armed Forces [FADM] soldiers will be sent to Zimbabwe's Nyanga military training camp to be trained by British and Zimbabwean instructors. We also learned that General Tobias Dai, currently a reservist, will be the new Defense Ministry secretary general. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe has said it is not aware of the existence of the so-called "Chimwenje" ["little light"; Zimbabwean dissident forces reportedly based in Mozambique]. Zimbabwean Defense Minister Moven Mahachi said, quote: We have not identified them. We do not know where they are or even if they exist, unquote.

Unconfirmed reports say the "Chimwenje" are a group of Mozambican men led by Edgar Tekere, a Zimbabwean opposition leader. The reports add that these men are hiding in Manica Province, somewhere near the border with Zimbabwe. Their reported aim is to destabilize Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwean defense minister rejected all these reports today. Mahachi, who began a working visit to Mozambique yesterday, said he knows nothing about the so-called "Chimwenje." He stressed that Zimbabwe has never been the target for attacks by anybody from Mozambican territory.

[Begin Mahachi recording, in English with passage-by-passage translation into Portuguese] I am not confirming that there is anything called "Chimwenje," because we are not being attacked by anybody from Mozambique. [end recording]

Angola

Shots Exchanged in Luanda; Police Deployed

MB2109074695 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 20 Sep 95

[From the "Ultima Hora" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Angola, everyone is anxious because the trade unions, led by the Union of Luanda Trade Unions, have threatened to go on general strike if the government fails to comply with a list of social and economic demands. The trade unions and the government are still involved in talks, and no action is expected on 21 September yet. Still, Interior Ministry special units have discreetly deployed men on the streets of Luanda. Official sources say this is a precaution against developments that might undermine law and order.

The situation is all the more serious because a group of senior army officers recently sent President Jose Eduardo dos Santos a letter demanding better living conditions.

Those army officers have now joined many Angolan workers making similar demands. At this stage, a senior Angolan Government official, such as a national director, earns no more than \$10, just enough to buy a chicken on the black market or in the special shops, the only markets that still function in Angola.

The group of army officers includes senior officers who are still active in the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA]. Some of their demands are believed to have already been met. Government sources told us the army officers had made it clear they were willing to resort to suicidal moves if necessary, and they cited the example of the disgruntled soldiers in Sao Tome and Principe who led a coup d'etat.

Observers have linked this climate of tension to the massive deployment of riot police on Luanda's streets. It is true that the police presence was beefed up, just as it is quite clear that there are now more forces around Angolan head of state Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Curiously enough, the most talked about victims of the so-called security paranoia so far have been Milu Rodrigues, a woman who works in the President's Office who was severely beaten by Presidential Guard forces, and the Council of Ministers secretary's bodyguard, who was shot to death.

Meanwhile, reports have just reached our news desk that shots were exchanged near FAA headquarters in Luanda's Kalema Ward. In a statement to the privately owned Luanda Commercial Antenna radio

station, police said it is already in control of the situation, but it urged people to remain calm. It is worth noting that police failed to disclose the reasons for the shots and whether any people had been killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, riot police have occupied positions in Kalema Ward, Luanda Airport, 1 May Square, and in front of the principal public buildings in the Angolan capital.

UN's Beye Says Peace Process 'Irreversible'

MB2009161695 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Alioune Blondin Beye, special representative of the UN secretary general in our country, said in Luanda today that the Angolan peace process is irreversible.

[Begin Beye recording, in French with passage-by-passage translation into Portuguese] As I said earlier, the political will is there. The parties have even told me that [words indistinct] irreversible stage. We must continue to be vigilant, however, to thwart any attempt to halt this process. Just imagine if the process derails and [words indistinct] I have never thought of that [words indistinct] what will happen? I would not like to see it happen [words indistinct] I would not like to see it happen to any people in the world, particularly an African people, and above all, the Angolan people, who have already suffered a great deal. [end recording]

The Malian-born UN official said this during Luanda Radio's Cards on the Table program. The debate, which was joined by listeners, dealt with a number of issues connected with the peace process, notably the confinement of troops from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], mine disarming, the free movement of people and goods, cease-fire violations, the deployment of the UN Angola Verification Mission-3 troops, and the operation of the Joint Commission.

Alioune Blondin Beye leaves Luanda for Brussels tomorrow to attend a donors' conference on Angola. Before leaving the country, he will preside over the Joint Commission's 22d ordinary session, which will mainly examine political, military, and humanitarian issues. Beye emphasized the importance of the donors' conference in Brussels, scheduled for 25-27 September, and expressed satisfaction that Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi would attend. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

Renamo Selects 150 Soldiers for Protective Force

MB2109055595 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0500 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] has selected 150 soldiers to be trained and then to join the Republic of Mozambique Police. These men will provide security for senior Renamo officials. Portugal's LUSA news agency says Renamo will present a list of the soldiers' names to the Mozambican Government for approval soon.

Namibia

Minister: South Africa Stalling SACU Accord

MB2009152795 Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 15 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Tabby Moyo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Trade and Industry Minister Hidipo Hamutenya yesterday accused South Africa of stalling progress in the renegotiation of a new Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

Briefing members of the Namibia National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NNCCI) yesterday, the minister said although ten months had elapsed since the ministers of trade from South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, the countries which make up the Customs Union, met in Pretoria to discuss the restructuring of the organisation not much progress had been made.

Mr Hamutenya said despite the fact that the South African government had given an undertaking that it would want to see a democratic SACU, this had not been the case so far. "What is reflected at political level does not always apply at bureaucratic level," he said.

However, if the status quo remains unchanged, Mr Hamutenya ruled out the possibility of Namibia withdrawing from the Customs Union.

"We feel we are somehow being cheated of the revenue share we get from SACU but we remain unsure of our capability to effectively collect revenue as is the case with SACU...being in SACU and purchasing from South Africa saves us a lot of headaches," he said.

Presently all the members of SACU apart from the major player, South Africa, are unhappy with the existing arrangements within the economic grouping. The members have expressed the view that procedures and decision making within the union is undemocratic.

Mr Hamutenya said all the decision making had to be left entirely to the South African Board of Tariffs which rarely took into account consents and proposals of the other member states. He said need had also arisen to draw up new formulas on the sharing of revenue collected within the grouping.

South Africa had also been accused of stifling industrial growth in the BLNS [Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland] countries through the protection of its industries and this had created a lot of instability in the rules of trade within the block. Currently almost all companies supplying SACU with goods are South African-based.

The Minister also said there had been some unnecessary delays in the payment of the revenue due to the SACU members which in some cases took up to two years to be paid over. However, notable progress in the renegotiation of SACU had been made in the agreement to create a Council of Ministers which would replace the South African Board of Tariffs in decision making.

It had also been agreed that all SACU vehicle assembly plants would have to work under a single agreement gazetted in April this year which will see the movement from the assembly of "semi-knock downs" to "complete knock downs".

Further any individual or company wishing to set up a car assembly plant would have to first of all submit his proposals to the Minister responsible who would then take up the matter with SACU.

Meanwhile, NNCCI First Vice-President Harold Pukewitz has expressed concern over the fact that the local business community was not being approached for its input with regards the renegotiation of SACU. "This problem involves not only politics but economics. The business community has not been given the opportunity to voice its concerns with regards SACU," he said adding that business people had vast knowledge and experience which the government could use. Mr Hamutenya conceded the claim but gave the assurance that plans were afoot to address the problem.

Zambia

Kaunda, 7 Party Officials Put Under Confinement

*MB2009184195 Lusaka Zambia National
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1800 GMT 20 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police in Eastern Province have put former President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and

seven other UNIP [United National Independence Party] officials under confinement at the house of Mr. Rupiah Banda in Chipata. Officials who have been confined to Mr. Banda's house, following the beating up of Education Deputy Minister (Newton Mwuni) and his brother in Chama, include Banda himself, (Roxon Chongo), and Mrs. (Zalulu).

Dr. Kaunda's special assistant for press, (Muhabi Lungu) told ZNBC [Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation] today that police intercepted the UNIP convoy coming from Lundazi, as it approached Chipata. Mr. (Muhabi) told ZNBC that police ordered the Kaunda team to return to Chama where an identification parade for the people who assaulted Mr. (Mwuni) would be carried out.

Police spokeswoman (Edis Chinkobele) confirmed the incident to ZNBC, adding that the identification parade would take place in Chama where the assault occurred (?three) days ago. She said it is hoped that the investigations would be completed in Chama and noted that only if the case becomes complicated will it be brought to Lusaka. (Muhabi) said five (?voyagers), some of whom are also (?drivers) were being held at the Chipata Police Station.

Kaunda's Party Wins Seats in MMD Territory

*MB2009173495 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio
in English 1500 GMT 20 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A report from Lusaka says former President Kenneth Kaunda is on his way back into politics, after preliminary results in eight by-elections held yesterday indicate that his party has won three of six seats in ruling party strongholds.

The results announced so far show that the United National Independence Party of Dr. Kaunda beat the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy [MMD] candidates in the Northern Province constituencies of Mbala and Mpulungu, and in the Central Province constituency of Mkushi.

The ruling party retained their Mandevu and Chilanga seats in the capital, Lusaka, while the results of Namwala in the Southern Province and the Chama North and South seats of the Eastern Province are still being awaited.

Cote d'Ivoire

Cabinet Bans Public Demonstrations for 3 Months

AB2009224895 Abidjan La Chaine Une Television Network in French 2000 GMT 20 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The minister of communication and spokeswoman for the government informs us through a detailed communique that the Council of Ministers held a session in Abidjan this morning from 1000 to 1300 under the chairmanship of President Henri Konan Bedie. Before tackling the items on the agenda, officials from the Public Works Supervision Directorate presented to the Council of Ministers a model of the central mosque for Plateau district in Abidjan, and with the city's street naming plan.

During the session, the head of state signed many decrees. [passage omitted] Concerning the Ministry of Interior, a decree determines the number of polling stations for this year's general elections. The decree, which was recommended by the head of state, is in response to the desire to bring voters closer to polling stations and to prevent voter congestion. The figure of 25,000 polling stations was previously projected for a population of 6 million voters, but the voting population has now been brought down to 3,816,733 voters. There was, therefore, a need to reduce the number of polling stations, and it is in this regard that the number of 14,086 polling stations has been adopted, which is at least one polling station per village, at an average of 350 voters.

The second decree is aimed at regulating conditions for allowing voters to change their voting location. It, among other things, specifies the conditions under which a change in voting location is to be allowed. The decree subjects the change in voting location to strict conditions, in order to avoid abuses.

The third decree is related to rallies and demonstrations. Through the decree, the government wants to reaffirm the principle that administrative authorities — guarantors of law and order and public security — should be informed in advance before any mass demonstration. This is to enable them to take the necessary steps to protect citizens' liberties as well as public and private property.

Meanwhile, all marches and sit-ins are banned for a three-month period in all streets and at all public places. [passage omitted]

FPI To Ignore Ban

AB2109113595 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Cote d'Ivoire, the government and the opposition are locked in a tussle. With

a month to the presidential election, the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI), one of the main opposition parties, has called out its supporters for a demonstration in Treichville district today in spite of the decree signed by President Henri Konan Bedie yesterday banning street demonstrations for the next three months. Francois-Luc Moukouangui has the details:

[Moukouangui] For the Ivorian Government, the country will be going through an electoral marathon up to the end of the year, which means a crucial period which obviously necessitates a peaceful atmosphere, hence the ban on marches, demonstrations, and sit-ins which, according to the authorities, could cause a breach in law and order, and disrupt the smooth conduct of the general elections, including the presidential poll slated for next month.

It may be recalled that the police used tear gas and truncheons to disperse two demonstrations organized by the opposition in Abidjan yesterday. According to concurring sources in the city, two people were injured and a number of others arrested. With yesterday's two-fold demonstration, the entire spectrum of the opposition once more highlighted its demands.

Let us mention, at random, the withdrawal of the electoral code which is considered unfair because it prevents, according to the opposition, former Prime Minister Alassane Dramane Ouattara [ADO] from standing as a presidential candidate. Among others, the code stipulates that to be eligible to stand as a candidate, one should have lived in Cote d'Ivoire for the past four [figure as heard] years continuously. Now, ADO has been living in Washington, United States, for more than almost two years now where he holds the post of IMF assistant director.

Also worth noting in the opposition's demands is the call for the setting up of an independent electoral commission to organize the elections in place of the Ministry of Interior. One cannot also gloss over the demand for a rebalancing of seats at the National Assembly, and equal access to the state-owned media now monopolized by the ruling Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire-African Democratic Rally (PDCI-RDA), according to youth of the Rally of Republicans, a centrist opposition party.

It is out of the question that we mark time or go back to what has already been done — in fact, the electoral code has already been adopted, the Ivorian Government lashes out. The opposition is definitely diametrically opposed to this view, hence its extremist stance: It will demonstrate, rain or shine, until its demands are met. [passage omitted]

In spite of the mounting protest from the opposition, Laurent Dona Fologo, secretary general of the ruling party and minister of state for integration, remains adamant. According to him, the PDCI-RDA has nothing to blame itself for. The poll will take place on the date set, in accordance with the provisions of the law. Laurent Dona Fologo.

[Begin Fologo recording] We are quite cool and collected. As far as our party is concerned, we have just set up our electoral committee. As of next week, our teams will start combing the length and breadth of the country for the electioneering campaign due to open on 7 October. International observers have been invited. The joint opposition-government committees have crosschecked all the voter's registers.

I assure you that the elections will take place on 22 October, so I am quite sober. I am not concerned. I believe what is happening is agitation that is no different from what has been recorded around us. Cote d'Ivoire is still one of the countries that have suffered least from this democratic process, which has caused the mayhem you are aware of elsewhere. Consequently, we believe that the opposition wants to engage in a test of might, but I believe that the law will triumph. [end recording]

Opposition Cancels Demonstration

AB2109115295 Paris AFP in French
1119 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abidjan, 21 Sep (AFP) — The Ivorian opposition today gave up demonstrations they scheduled hold in the Abidjan working class district of Treichville, a day after the government banned all gatherings for three months, the organizers announced. However, they specified that new demonstrations will be announced "in the next few days."

Last night, in spite of the announcement of a presidential decree banning all marches and sit-ins, the Treichville section of the Ivorian Popular Front decided to go ahead with their demonstrations, announced a few days earlier. The gathering, initially scheduled for 0800, was postponed to 1100 before it was purely and simply "canceled."

FPI Official: Demonstrations To Continue

AB2109140095 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Abou Dramamane Sangare, the second in command of the Ivorian Popular Front [FPI], one of the main opposition parties in Cote d'Ivoire, has denied information according to which his party has decided to back-pedal. Here are

details with Mr. Sangare talking to Francois-Luc Moukouangui.

[Begin Sangare recording] The latest information is that there was no official cancellation of the demonstration by the party leadership. We received the comrades who wanted to organize the march, and we told them that the march should take place. Now, I do not know new circumstances arose in the field. I am still waiting for new information from the activists to know what really happened in the field.

As far as the FPI leadership is concerned, no instructions were given to cancel the march. We are staging demonstrations to obtain free and fair elections. We are marching to obtain the withdrawal of the electoral code. We have asked the authorities to sit down to hold discussions with us, but they have refused to sit down to discuss with us. Our only weapon now is to organize marches and demonstrations to force the power to sit down to hold discussions.

Now, the authorities have issued decrees banning all public demonstrations. This is an overall ban, but I maintain that we are living in a law-abiding state, and in such a state, freedom is the law, and a ban is the exception. As far as demonstrations are concerned, they are an attempt to reestablish freedom, and this freedom is enshrined within the Constitution, and within various international laws that Cote d'Ivoire has agreed to respect.

I, therefore, do not believe that in Cote d'Ivoire, a decree can suppress the conviction and determination of true democrats. I do not think so. I think this is not right. I think we are not here to go along with what the authorities are imposing on us. I am saying that to submit to this decree is to submit to dictatorship. [end recording]

Ghana

Opposition NPP Leader on National Situation

AB2109133095 London BBC World Service
in English 0615 GMT 21 Sep 95

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ghana's main opposition National Patriotic Party, the NPP, is gearing itself up for next year's elections. The opposition boycotted the parliamentary ballot in 1992 after it had lost the presidential poll alleging electoral fraud. So from outside parliament they have been firing their salvos against the government of President Jerry Rawlings, but the Rawlings administration seems to have support, especially the backing of the international donor community. Peter Adjetei is chairman of the opposition NPP. He is in

London at the moment. Robin White asked him what the opposition thought of the government's record.

[Begin recording] [Adjete] Well, international organizations seem to think that the government is doing well because the government has employed rather expensive public relations consultants to put their case abroad internationally, and the government has therefore a wonderful image abroad. What happens in the country or what is happening in the country is a totally different matter.

[White] What do you mean? What's wrong?

[Adjete] I mean things are difficult for everyone. Conditions of living are harsh; the educational system is in shambles; the health delivery system is broken down. I mean, you mention it, agriculture is almost at a standstill; industry is heavily underutilized — industrial capacity and so on. I mean, nothing seems to be going right for the country except for a few people.

[White] But how come organizations like the World Bank see differently. I mean they are not blind, are they?

[Adjete] Well, I am afraid that they may be blind because we say in our languages that a stranger has very large eyes but does not see with them. The World Bank after all is a stranger. It comes in our country for a few weeks, and thinks it's going to be able to pronounce on what is happening in our country. I am afraid it would not see very much and, therefore, lots of mistakes are made in the assessment of the performance of the Rawlings administration.

After all, in the final analysis, people judge by their stomachs: How much do they have to live on? What money do they have to take home at the end of the month? What can it buy? These are the things by which you judge whether a country is progressing or not, not whether a country is able to pay its debt externally.

[White] What can you promise the Ghanaian people? What can your party promise the Ghanaian people that Rawlings has not been able to deliver?

[Adjete] I can say that we are going to substantially improve the educational system. The educational system which Rawlings and his government have been presiding over for the past 10 years has not done any good to anyone.

[White] So what will you do?

[Adjete] We are going to make sure that that system really is so organized or so reorganized that it will produce the results that we want; that it will produce people who are sufficiently literate to be able to benefit from university education. [end recording]

Rival Muslim Groups Clash; 12 Wounded

AB2109122095 Paris AFP in French
0939 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Accra, 21 Sep (AFP) — Twelve persons were wounded in clashes between reformist and orthodox Muslims, in a suburb of Kumasi, 200 km northwest of Accra, on 17 September, police sources disclosed in Accra today. The incident broke out between members of the Tuijaniya faction, considered as "elders", and their reformist al-Sunna rivals, during morning prayers at a mosque in the Anloga district of Kumasi.

According to police, the two sides are fighting for the control of a mosque built 10 years ago by orthodox Muslims but over which the reformists — generally youth — are today claiming leadership. Following a quarrel during the prayer session, the orthodox Muslims organized about 40 supporters on a punitive expedition. The police intervened, arrested several people, and took control of the district day and night to prevent renewed incidents.

Since the beginning of the year, several clashes have broken out within the Ghanaian Muslim communities between "ancients" and "moderns," especially at Wenchi, situated 310 km northwest of Accra, where two people were killed and six others were wounded in early August.

Liberia

Chairman Sankawolo Delivers Policy Statement

AB2109115595 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English
0900 GMT 21 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the Council of State, Professor Wilton Sankawolo, says a comprehensive restructuring plan of the Armed Forces of Liberia will be submitted to ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] and UNOMIL [UN Observer Mission in Liberia] for review in six weeks. He said the plan, which should be approved by the council following its review by ECOMOG and UNOMIL, will reflect geographic and ethnic balances while at the same time taking into consideration professionalism and qualification.

In a policy statement delivered at the Executive Mansion, Prof. Sankawolo emphasized that the restructuring of the Army will enhance its capacity in the process of defending the nation. On the issue of civil servants, Chairman Sankawolo said government is committed to preserving this component but said competence will be considered in the composition of the work force. Prof.

Sankawolo said there will be no witch hunting in work places, and that committed civil servants will be protected except in case of gross inefficiency.

Meanwhile, the Council of State, in collaboration with the West African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG, is to shortly adopt new measures that would safely contain the high rate of armed robbery in the country. State Council Chairman Sankawolo warned armed robbers that government will not relent to deal with those who continue to disturb others. He said hard work is still the [word indistinct] and way of making an honest living, adding: Crime does not pay. Chairman Sankawolo said in government's efforts to deal drastically with armed robbers there will be no witch hunting but stressed that those found involved in criminal acts will bear the full weight of the law.

Promises Media Freedom

*AB2109121695 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English
0900 GMT 21 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Media institutions have been told not to allow themselves to be used as propaganda tools by individuals to frustrate the peace process. The chairman of the Council of State, in a policy statement yesterday, appealed to the press to frown on factors that deny Liberians of the means of assisting in the reconciliatory process, and commended the press for its role in the peace process so far, and stressed that government would continue to encourage and uphold the freedom of the press.

UNOMIL Mandate Extended to Jan 96

*AB2109122295 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English
0900 GMT 21 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1014-1995 has extended the mandate of UNOMIL [UN Observer Mission in Liberia] for another four and a half months beginning September 15 to January 31, 1996. This period, according to a UNOMIL release, will enable the Security Council to follow up, and support the recent progress made in the peace process by the Liberian parties.

The release further quoted the Security Council as saying that the United Nations is committed to giving its full support to the peace process to prevent any backward slide into conflict, and to assist Liberians to build upon the progress accomplished so far. In this regard, the UN secretary general will this week dispatch a mission to Liberia to consult with Liberian leaders, ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group], and UNOMIL on the requirements in the evolving implementation of the

Abuja Agreement. The Security Council further said UN military observers will gradually be deployed in the coming weeks along with ECOMOG throughout Liberia to monitor the cease-fire.

In a related development, the UN secretary general says he intends to organize in consultation with the chairman of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] the holding of a pledging conference for Liberia as soon as possible for the purpose of raising the resources needed by ECOMOG, and for other needs critical to the advancement of the peace process in Liberia. The Security Council is urging the international community to provide additional support for the peace process by contributing to the UN Trust Fund for Liberia, and to also provide financial, logistical, and other assistance in support of ECOMOG to enable it carry out its mandate.

Council Appoints Chief Justice, Associate Justices

*AB2109122595 Monrovia Radio ELBC in English
0900 GMT 21 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Council of State of the Liberian National Transitional Government, in the collective exercise of the powers of the presidency, has made appointments at the Supreme Court of Liberia. In a meeting with members of the Supreme Court Bench, the council appointed the chief justice and associate justices in order of seniority.

According to an Executive Mansion release, those appointed are: James Bull, chief justice. (Paul Baido), (Kamo Soko Sako), Laveli Supuwood, and (Hilton Yarson) are the associate justices.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry release says the justices of the Supreme Court will be inducted into office today by the Council of State. The release says the induction ceremonies take place at the Executive Mansion. Members of the TLA [Transitional Legislative Assembly], cabinet ministers, judges, the president, officers, and members of the Liberia National Bar Association, and others have been invited to the ceremonies.

Nigeria

Committee Coordinating Programs for 1 Oct Broadcast

*AB2109111195 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 21 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The meeting of the Federal Executive Council [FEC] has adjourned till next week. State House Correspondent Odji Ogboneye Odji reports that the submissions of probe panels on some public institutions were discussed by the council.

[Begin recording] [Odji] The reports of probe panels on the Nigerian Customs Service as well as that on the activities of NEPA [Nigeria Electric Power Authority] were looked into at the day two session of the FEC presided over by the head of state, General Sani Abacha. As usual, the minister of information and culture, Walter Ofonagoro, briefed State House correspondents on the progress of proceedings at the meeting:

[Ofonagoro] The activities of these panels is to identify the problems that militated against the efficient operation of these parastatals, and to find a way of resolving these problems. So, once we are able to take decisions on the final reports and other contingent plans, the road is clear, so there are ways of reorganizing these parastatals for greater efficiency.

[Odji] Dr. Ofonagoro disclosed that an interministerial committee has been set up to coordinate the program of activity for the 1 October broadcast of the transition program. The minister said that expectations of the broadcast were quite high but quickly added that government would not disappoint the people.

On the composition of the interministerial committee and details of its assignments, Dr. Ofonagoro declined further comment. The minister, who said he was also a member of the interministerial committee, however, explained that the committee will coordinate programs between now and 1 October, in addition to the relating to other important committees set up on the transition program. [end recording]

Before the meeting resumed yesterday, the FEC congratulated the head of state, Gen. Sani Abacha on the occasion of his 52d birthday. The ministers presented the head of state with a giant birthday card bearing the signatures of all of them. The chief of general staff, Lieutenant General Oladipo Diya and the minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Lieutenant General Jeremiah Useni, who formally presented the card, paid glowing tribute to Gen. Sani Abacha. Responding, Gen. Abacha said that the occasion of his birthday provided an impetus for continued reflection on affairs of the nation.

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